

The INK WELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE WEBUTUCK COUNTRY SCHOOLHOUSE ASSOCIATION

Summer 2007



Indian Rock Schoolhouse birdhouse workshop, summer 2006

Summer Sundays

The second series of free Summer Sundays will open July 8th to run from 1 to 4 pm. Grounds open at 12:30 so that folks who wish to bring a picnic may do so. A different activity is planned for each Sunday.

Begun last year to give families a low cost option for family fun in an informal local setting, the programs were very popular. Some of the topics will be repeated this year and several new events are on the schedule. All activities are free.

In addition, the 1858 Indian Rock Schoolhouse will be open to visitors, the two new trunk exhibits will be on display, work in the school garden is offered and quiet table activities are available for children.

See page 2 for a listing of events. You need not pre-register. No pets or unattended children, please. Indian Rock Schoolhouse welcomes visitors – both individuals and groups.

Summer Sundays Schedule 2007

JULY 8: Nesting Instinct!

Make a birdhouse or birdfeeder with Jeanne and June! Last year was tons of fun. They are doing it again, so don't miss this opportunity to supply your fine-feathered friends a sturdily built birdhouse or whimsical feeder.

Sponsored by: Dill's Best Building Centers

JULY 15: Exploding books

with Tilly. Pick a pack of paper and with some clever folds and some glue you'll be able to amaze your friends and wow everyone else!

Sponsored by Tilly's Studio

JULY 22: music concert by Helen

Avaklan. For several years Helen has won the hearts and ears of her audience. Come hear her magic.

This event is sponsored by Maplebrook School.

JULY 29: Folk Painting and an Ice Cream Social

Have a look at some examples of folk painting and, with paint and wood provided, create your own dream vision. The ice cream might melt your inhibitions away!

Sponsored by FreshTown in Amenia and Ducillo Construction

August 5: Odds and Ends and Outs!

Come see what bargains this community tag sale may have for you. If you are interested in setting up a table to sell your beautiful, yet unwanted items, contact Tilly . 845-373-7813 for info. **Seller's fee: \$10 to**

benefit Indian Rock Trunk Exhibit Fund

***Set-up is at 12 noon, bring a table, umbrella and your stuff. No reserved spaces – first come, best location.**

Sponsored by Welsh Sanitation

More about the Schoolyard.....

Several enhancements of the schoolyard pavilion have been made this spring by the faithful band of volunteers comprising the construction committee.

Four ten foot benches have been built along the sides of the building. Besides providing additional seating accommodations to the tables and benches inside the pavilion, the new side boards will add stability to the trussed structure.

An old cast-iron sink has been installed beneath the faucet on the water line coming down from the Maplebrook School to the pavilion. The water in the faucet has been treated at Maplebrook and is potable.

In readying the grounds for the Arbor Day festivities the construction crew placed some of the student-made birdhouses around the edge of the pavilion lawn.

Volunteer Bill Burke has been watering the Arbor Day trees and Rudy has been watching over the garden the children planted with corn, pumpkins and a few tomato plants.

Andy Durbridge our schoolhouse landscape expert is already germinating ideas for next year's tree planting. He says: **“one idea might be to join forces with ‘Elm Watch’ this is a group who is bringing back the disease resistant elm trees after many were lost to dutch elm disease.”**

Indian Rock Schoolhouse is open during events and by appointment. Please call 845-373-8338 or write to IndianRockschool@aol.com if you wish to visit.

Directions to Indian Rock: From the stoplight in Amenia, go 8/10 mile north on Route 22. Just after FreshTown Plaza and the small Liquor store plaza turn right onto Old North Road. Continue straight at the Y past the old cemetery. The schoolhouse is on the left



The second trunk exhibit created by the after school program at North East Community Center in Millerton

FREEDOM QUILTS

The enthusiastic response to our first trunk exhibit "A Trip to the One-room Schoolhouse" has encouraged the development of another traveling display and interactive history trunk.

The students in the B.R.Y.T.E. after school program at North East Community Center made a quilt in the "shoofly" pattern. It is packed in the trunk with directions on how to assemble the quilt pieces, books on freedom quilts, quilt patterns to color and real quilt pieces along with needles and thread for users to make their own quilts.

The student-made quilt in the trunk will be shown at the Dutchess County Fair in August.

The children decorated the inside of the trunk lid with their own photographs, proudly watching over the contents of their trunk.

Freedom quilts were said to be made by slaves escaping servitude on the Under-

ground Railroad. By law, slaves were not allowed to learn to read and write, they used specific quilt patterns to leave directions for other slaves watching for information along the way to freedom, hanging quilts from porch railings and clotheslines.

"The Freedom Quilt Trunk" will begin to circulate as part of Indian Rock's year-round educational programs in September. During the summer, it will be used in a pilot program with seniors. Next fall, the students in the NECC program are looking forward to making a presentation to the North East Historical Society using the specially assembled group of objects.

(For more info on programs for kids contact NECC at 581-789-4259- ask for Rhoda)

The Webutuck PTA has given a generous grant to Indian Rock Schoolhouse to continue the trunk exhibits in memory of one-room school teacher, the late Kay Kane.

If you wish to borrow one of the trunks for your class or community group, please call 845-373-8528 speak to Joan



"Making your Manners..." with Miss Murphy

Arbor Day at Indian Rock Schoolhouse... the Best!

This year's observance of Arbor Day was the most successful since the Indian Rock School's revival of the traditional springtime celebration four years ago.

Some 120 youngsters from the first and second grades of the Webutuck Central School helped Andy Durbridge and Rudy Eschbach plant four evergreens and sow corn to start the Native American "Three Sisters" garden in the schoolyard. Squash and pumpkin seeds were planted by fifth graders later and the beans will be added by the students of Little Professors Day Care.



Rudy helps fifth graders plant seeds in the garden

Durbridge, whom the school children know as "Pine Cone Pete", explained the significance of the new evergreens, "These add to the diversity of trees and plants that will provide a sustainable wild life habitat. The next step in the landscaping of our schoolyard is a wildlife hedgerow."

The schoolhouse celebration of Arbor Day has grown from its beginnings as visits to local nursery schools to a community-wide effort.



A tree is dedicated to Mike O'Neil by Pine Cone Pete and the children

Thanks should be given to Mike O'Neil, who has been a great supporter of Indian Rock School activities during his years as principal of the Amenia Elementary School, the Webutuck PTA for their contribution to the new plantings and to Twin Brook Garden Center for donation of their services.

More Arbor Day thanks to: Maplebrook School

Margie O'Brien, Indian Rock Music teacher

Mickey Prisco, Therese Sanford and the Bank of Millbrook along with Joe McEnroe (our cookie friends)

Gilbert Jobe, the clock-winder

"The Pine Cone Princess"

Indian Rock Committees, trustees and friends who helped with the celebration

“....at the old ball game”

Vintage Base Ball game at Indian Rock School on August 11



An old-time base ball game with the rules, equipment and uniforms of 100 years ago will be played August 11th at the Maplebrook field behind the Indian Rock schoolhouse in Amenia.

The game will pit the Roxbury Nine against the Hartford Senators, two vintage clubs established to perpetuate the early game when it was still spelled “base ball”.

The Roxbury team comes from across the Hudson. The Senators are from Hartford, Connecticut and were originally a minor league club which boasted such diamond luminaries as Lou Gehrig and Hank Greenberg. Both teams play exhibition games all summer.

The game being played for the benefit of the historic one-room schoolhouse

will begin at noon. A \$10 parking fee will be charged with Schoolhouse Association members paying only \$5, by calling in a reservation and showing their new membership card at the gate.

Hot dogs and sodas will be sold and the pavilion can be used by families who prefer to bring their own picnic lunch. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited, however.

Because of a lack of bleachers, it is suggested that folks bring blankets or lawn chairs to sit on the grassy bank just above the infield.

In addition to the game itself, the organizers are publishing a souvenir booklet entitled “Amenia Has Always Been a Baseball Town” featuring vintage photos and reminiscences about Amenia’s own baseball stars. From the old Amenia High School field to the players we all remember – Doc Bartlett, Don Herring, Babe Foley, and many many more heroes of the diamond - their photos will appear in the book. Created by Rooney Design with help from the Amenia Historical Society this booklet will be a great memento of the game and Amenia’s proud baseball past. The booklet will be on sale at the game for only \$10.

Game starts at noon, the Schoolhouse grounds open at 11:30. The historic 1858 schoolhouse will be open to visitors. However no picnicking will be allowed inside the school.

Bring the whole family, Grandma and Cousin Nell, but please **DO NOT BRING YOUR PET!**

Political posters, handouts, buttons and hats are prohibited from this family fun day.

This heritage event is part of “baseball weekend” in Amenia. Friday nite, August 10th at 7 pm there is an Amenia Monarchs “old timers” game at Beekman Park. Check the Amenia website at www.ameniany.gov for information.

Membership Form for **New Members...Welcome!**

Name _____

Address _____

Town, State, ZIP _____

e-mail _____

___ **Classmate (Individual) yr/\$15**

___ **Dick Jane and Spot (family) yr/\$25**

___ **Teacher's Pet yr/\$100**

___ **Lifetime Learner \$500**

___ **Business/Corporate yr/ \$100**

Please make checks payable to :

For additional information:

W.C.S.A. Indian Rock School

Jenn Scully

PO Box 172 5142 Route 22

Amenia, NY 12501

jscully@maplebrookschool.org

Old Friends and Current Members:

Please do not use this form....wait until you receive a bill for your dues. We are creating a universal dues date for all our members....you will receive info on how to help. *Thank you for your membership.*



**Indian Rock
Schoolhouse**
W.C.S.A.

PO Box 172
Amenia, NY
12501